

Message Text

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SUBJECT: THE FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) AND PORTUGAL

SUMMARY. THE PS HAS ONCE MORE ALLIED ITSELF WITH PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST (PSP) LEADER MARIO SOARES AND HAS DENOUNCED THE GOF POSITION AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL. THIS NEW PS MOVE COMES ON THE HEELS OF FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCF) PUBLICATION OF A 1972 DOCUMENT IN WHICH PCF SECRETARY GENERAL GEORGES MARCHAIS TOOK AN EXTREMELY HARD, PESSIMISTIC LINE ON A POSSIBLE UNION OF THE LEFT. THE PS-PCF QUARREL IS ONCE MORE HEATING UP BUT WORKING-LEVEL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES CONTINUE TO BE FREQUENT, TECHNICAL AND ORIENTED TOWARDS THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS OF 1977. END SUMMARY.

1. MITTERRAND'S SUPPORT FOR SOARES: ON JULY 17 FRANCOIS MITTERRAND, PS FIRST SECRETARY, SENT A TELEGRAM TO SOARES AND THE PSP IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED THE SOLIDARITY OF THE PS WITH "THE PSP'S COMBAT." AFTER NOTING

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THAT THE PRESENCE OF SOCIALISTS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF

PORTUGAL "REPRESENTED FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW A REAL GUARANTEE OF DEMOCRATIC EVOLUTION OF PORTUGAL TOWARDS A PLURALISTIC SOCIALIST SOCIETY", MITTERRAND WENT ON TO EXPRESS HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE PSP'S GOALS: "IMPROVING THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AN EVOLUTION TOWARDS A SOCIALIST SOCIETY IN ACCORD WITH THE RESPECT FOR POPULAR WILL RECENTLY AND CLEARLY EXPRESSED."

2. THE PS TAKES A TOUGHER TONE: MITTERRAND'S DECLARATION HAD BEEN UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE PARTY'S DIRECTING COMMITTEE ON JULY 16. THE COMMITTEE ALSO ACCEPTED A MOTION PROPOSED BY SAVOY DEPUTY JEAN-PIERRE COT WHICH DENOUNCED THE GOF'S DECISION TO DRAG ITS FEET ON EC ECONOMIC AID TO PORTUGAL. LED BY DOUBS DEPUTY AND SOCIALIST ASSEMBLY CAUCUS VICE-PRESIDENT ANDRE BOULLO-CHE, THE PS WILL RUN A CAMPAIGN OF WRITTEN QUESTION ADDRESSED TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DESIGNED TO KEEP ITS VIEWS ON PORTUGAL AND GOF FOREIGN POLICY CONTINUALLY BEFORE THE FRENCH PUBLIC DURING THE SUMMER.

3. COMMENT AND ANALYSIS: WHATEVER THE INS AND OUTS OF PS AND PC POSITIONS ON PORTUGAL, THE FRENCH PUBLIC IS LIKELY TO GREET FURTHER PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS WITH A YAWN. THE SUMMER HAS COME, THE CITIES ARE EMPTYING AND THE TOUR DE FRANCE, EUROPE'S LARGEST BICYCLE RACE, IS A MUCH MORE FREQUENTLY DISCUSSED SUBJECT THAN FOREIGN POLICY. THE REAL EVENT IN THE CONTINUING PS-PCF DISPUTE, THE PC'S PUBLICATION OF A 1972 REPORT BY GEORGES MARCHAIS TO THE COMMUNIST CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN WHICH MARCHAIS ACCUSES THE SOCIALISTS OF BEING TREACHEROUS AND OVERLY ATLANTICIST, HAS AROUSED PRESS ATTENTION BUT HAS SEEMINGLY FAILED TO LEAD TO ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN POLLED PARTY STRENGTH OR WORKING-LEVEL RELATIONS. IN FACT, THE UNITED LEFT LIAISON COMMITTEE IS REPORTEDLY MOVING CLOSER TO AN UNDERSTANDING ON STRATEGY FOR COMMON CANDIDACIES IN SOME MAJORITY-CONTROLLED CITIES DURING THE 1977 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. NEITHER THEIR INTERNAL STRUGGLES NOR THEIR SEPARATE POSITIONS ON PORTUGAL SHOULD BE EXPECTED TO GREATLY ALTER THE PREVIOUSLY-REPORTED STATE OF PS/PCF RELATIONS (PARIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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